

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 ACDA-12 OMB-01
SSM-03 EB-08 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8719
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S E C R E T CAIRO 12171

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCLR, EG
SUBJECT: NPW TRANSITS OF SUEZ CANAL--CHEWNING VISIT

1. I WISH TO PLACE ON RECORD MY APPRECIATION FOR RADM ROBERT CHEWNING'S HELPFUL VISIT TO EGYPT. IN TWO DAYS OF TALKS WITH DEPUTY PRIMIN AHMED SULTAN AND OTHER CONCERNED EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS, HE WAS ABLE CLARIFY SOME IMPORTANT POINTS, BUT WITHOUT GOING BEYOND THE LIMITS OF WHAT COULD BE DISCLOSED. HE HAD SEVERAL TIMES TO FALL BACK ON THIS LIMITATION, WHICH WAS ACCEPTED BY HIS EGYPTIAN INTERLOCUTORS. ALTHOUGH THE ISSUE IS NOT YET RESOLVED, AND THE EGYPTIANS STRONGLY INSIST MONITORING EQUIPMENT IS REQUIRED FOR SUEZ CANAL, RADM CHEWNING'S COMMENTS DID MUCH TO REASSURE THEM ABOUT SAFETY OF USNPW'S.

2. ON AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION, EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS AGREED TO DECOUPLE THEIR MONITORING EQUIPMENT INSISTENCE FROM QUESTION USNPW TRANSITS. WE ARE CURRENTLY EXPLORING

WITH AID/EGYPT WHETHER WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACCEDE TO GOE REQUEST PURCHASE SUCH EQUIPMENT THROUGH CIP PROGRAM, BUT WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO NPW TRANSIT QUESTION. AMBASSADOR WILL CONTINUE TO URGE THAT, IN VIEW OF PROVEN SAFETY

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RECORD OF USNPW'S, GOE MAKE EARLY POSITIVE DECISION ON TRANSIT OF SUCH VESSELS EVEN BEFORE EQUIPMWFFT QUESTION IS RESOLVED.

3. WILL BE SENDING BY TWO SEPTELS DETAILED REPORTS OF THE TWO DAYS OF TALKS. AFTER SUBJECT REVIEWED WITH AID/ EGYPT, AMBASSADOR WILL ALSO SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS TO

AID/W ABOUT POSSIBLE MONITORING EQUIPMENT PURCHASE THROUGH
CIP PROGRAM. EILTS

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NNN

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